

**RULES OF PROCEDURE  
MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Last Revised March 26, 2004**

Proposed change, September 2011

**Part A. Council Meeting Rules**

- A-1.** Each Legislative Council shall determine the rules of its proceedings. (Formerly RULE I)
- A-2.** These rules may be altered, suspended, or amended by vote of a majority of the Council. (Formerly RULE XII)
- A-3.** Regular meetings of the Legislative Council must be held in the State Capitol, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise approved by a majority of members. Meetings may be scheduled by the presiding officer or by a majority of the members. A meeting agenda must be sent to each member prior to each meeting. A member of the Legislative Council who misses two (2) consecutive meetings may be removed from the Council by a majority of the Council. (Formerly RULE II; amended 9/22/03)
- A-4.** All meetings of the Legislative Council must be conducted under the established rules of the Senate of the state of Montana as to quorums and parliamentary procedure as applicable. (Formerly RULE III)
- A-5.** All meetings are open to the public except if matters of individual privacy are discussed and if the demand for individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure, unless the right of privacy has been waived. (Formerly RULE IX; amended 8/5/96; amended 3/26/04)
- A-6.** The minutes of all regular and special meetings must be mailed to each member of the Council as soon as possible after each meeting. (Formerly RULE VII)
- A-7.** Proxies are generally discouraged. Employment of a proxy is inappropriate whenever a question before a committee has not received a prior hearing or where new debate occurs the day of the vote. For the exercise of a proxy to be valid, the deputized member shall hold a written proxy from the absent member that specifies the question to which the proxy applies. Where a written proxy refers generally to a question but does not precisely address the question called to a vote, the presiding officer shall determine whether the proxy will be allowed. (proposed September 2011)

**Part B. Rules Governing Council Duties**

- B-1.** If a question of statewide importance arises when the Legislative Council or other statutory committee has not been assigned to consider the

Legislative Council Meeting  
September 15, 2011